To be more specific, according to the present invention, the BP definition describing the shipping route of the electronic document is provided with the information specifying the entrance and exit for circulation, and the entrance and exit of mutually differing BP definitions are linked. Furthermore, according to the present invention, the BP definition is provided with a ~~callout~~call-out port and return port in addition to the entrance and exit, and the call-out port and entrance, and exit and return port of the mutually differing BP definitions are respectively connected. In the present invention, BP definitions created by the user in one batch are divided to generate a plurality of connectable BP definitions, which are delivered to each management site. In the present invention, furthermore, a template of the connectable BP definition is created from the newly created BP definition, and is stored as a basis to create the next BP definitions.

**Pages 12-13, the paragraph bridging these pages, from page 12, line 12, to page 13, line 10, replace the paragraph with:**

The following describes the Embodiment 1 with reference to the operation example illustrated in Fig. 3: Fig. 3 is a schematic illustration showing that the BP definition 1 (300), the BP definition 2 (350) and the BP definition 3 (370)

managed independently server A, server B and server C are

connected with one another.  In Fig. 3, the BP definition

(150) is described in the data flow model, and the next BP

location and the shipping route are described by the node and

arc, respectively.  One BP definition (150) contains the

entrance node and exit node, in addition to the processing

node representing one process to be treated in the workflow

subsystem (180) to which the BP  definition managing server

(110) pertains.  The entrance node is a node to execute

process of receiving the data from other BP definitions, while

the exit node is a node to execute process of transmitting the

data to other BP definitions.  The entrance and exit nodes are

the nodes to provide compatibility with other BP definitions.

According to the BP definition 1~, for example, node 2

~~(300)~~ (310), node 3 (315) and node 4 (320) are processing

nodes, and node 1 (305) is an entrance node, while node 5

(325) and node 6 (330) are exit nodes.

   **Pages 13-14, the paragraph bridging these pages, from

page 13, line 11 to page 14, line 11, replace the paragraph

with:**

   Fig. 4 is a schematic drawing representing the shipping

document (~~169~~160) delivery method in the workflow subsystem

(180).  The document management unit (220) is provided with

the IN queue (410) and OUT queue (420) to enter the shipping

documents corresponding to the processing node in the BP

definition. The entrance node has only the OUT queue (420),

while the exit node has only the IN queue (410). Those in

charge of the work on the client (120) and application pick up

the shipping document (160) from the IN queue (410)

corresponding to the processing node to which they are

assigned, and, after executing the process, return it to the

OUT queue (420) corresponding to the processing node.

Referring to the BP definition (150), the document management

unit (220) transfers to the IN queue (410) corresponding to

the next processing node the shipping document (160) in the

OUT queue. The exit node can be linked to the entrance node

of other BP definitions (150) by the BP connection data (170).

In this case, by making reference to the BP connection data

(170), the document management unit (220) transfers to the

server (110) managing the BP definition (150) of the next BP

location the shipping document (160) of the IN queue (410)

corresponding to the exit node.

**Pages 14-15, the paragraph bridging these pages, from**

**page 14, line 12 to page 15, line 6, replace the paragraph**

**with:**

The BP connection table (500) in Fig. 5 and security

tables (600 and 650) in Fig. 6 represent an embodiment of the

BP connection data (170) used to connect among the BP

definition 1 (300), the BP definition 2 (350) and the BP

definition 3 (370).  The BP connection table (500) in Fig. 5

are managed by server A, security table (600) in Fig. 6 by

server B, and security tables (650) in Fig. 6 by server C.

The BP connection table (500) comprises the previous BP exit

location (510) composed of the BP definition name (511) and

the exit node name (512), and the next BP entrance location

(520) composed of the BP definition name (521), the entrance

node name (522) and the management server name (523); the

information to link between the exit node and entrance node is

stored therein.  The example of Fig. 5̶3 shows that the exit

node node 5 (325) and node 6 (330) in the BP definition 1

(300) are linked with entrance node node1 (355) in the BP

definition 2 (320) and entrance node node1 (375) in the BP

definition 2̶3 (370), respectively.

**Pages 18-19, the paragraph bridging these pages, from
page 18, line 21 to page 19, line 11, replace the paragraph
with:**

The following describes the embodiment 2 according to the

present invention with reference to the operation example

illustrated in Fig. 9.  Embodiment 2 refers to the case of

calling out a remote BP definition in the flow of a certain BP

definition.  Fig. 9 schematically illustrates the connection

between the BP definition 4 (900) and BP definition 5̲ (950)

which are independently managed by servers D and E.  The BP

definition 4 (900) and BP definition 5 (950) in Fig. 9 contain

the CALL node in addition to the process node, entrance node

and exit node. The shipping document (160) delivered from the

CALL node to the process node in the remote BP definition

(150) returns to the CALL node again after having completed

delivery of the shipping document (160) according to the BP

definition (150) as a source of the delivery.

**Page 19, the first full paragraph, line 12 to  line 21,**
**replace the paragraph with:**

In Fig. 9, for example, the BP definition 5 (950) is

called out of the ~~CALl~~CALL node 3 (915) of the BP definition 4

(900).  In the BP definition 5 (950), after the document has

been delivered from the entrance node (955) up to two exit

nodes (975 and 980), it is again returned to the BP definition

4 (900).  The shipping document from two exit nodes (975 and

980) are output from the CALL node (915); then the shipping

document is delivered to the next nodes (920 and 925) in the

BP definition 4.

**Page 26, the first full paragraph, line 2 to  line 7,**
**replace the paragraph with:**

When connecting the BP definitions created independently

on a plurality of servers by a plurality of users,

incompatibility problems are ~~like~~likely to occur to the

connection interfaces among the BP definitions.  Embodiments 3 and 4 illustrate how to provide support to adjust the connection interfaces.

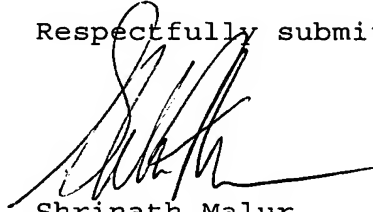**Page 30, the first full paragraph, line 1 to  line 16, replace the paragraph with:**

Assume that the end user has created the BP definition 4 (900) shown in Fig. 16, and has registered it into the server (110).  The BP definition 4 (900) shown in Fig. 16 contains a CALL node, and the BP connection table (1000) in Fig. 10 and the BP return table (1100) in Fig. 11 are set in the BPO connection data (170) of this ~~CALl~~CALL node.  In this case, the BP definition management unit (240) creates the template (1700) of the BP definition as illustrated in Fig. 17.  ~~t~~The template (1700) of the BP definition comprises only the entrance and exit nodes linked to the CALL and return nodes. In the template (1700) of the BP definition, the BP definition name, entrance node name and exit node name are assigned with the names specified by the BP connection data (170) of Figs. 10 and 11.

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## REMARKS

The specification has been amended as in the parent application and to correct minor typographical errors.  No new matter has been added.

Examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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